



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE UPDATE

UPDATE ON SEWER MAIN REPAIR ACTIVITIES IN FORT LAUDERDALE

December 23, 9:30 a.m.

Following is an update on sewer main repair activities on a 48-inch line in the Himmarshee Canal in Beverly Heights and a 54-inch line on SE 10 Street along the north side of Virginia Young Park in Rio Vista. In addition, below are updates on ongoing cleanup and remediation efforts in the Hector Park area along Ponce de Leon Drive in Rio Vista.

Operations in the Himmarshee Canal

- Industrial divers are on site this morning continuing underwater repairs on a 48-inch sewer main in the Himmarshee Canal in the vicinity of SE 2 Street and SE 9 Avenue.
- The leak is not impacting properties on land.
- Three aerators are operating at points along the Himmarshee Canal to help improve water quality.
- Neighbors are reminded that the Himmarshee Canal from S. Federal Highway to the New River remains under a precautionary advisory for recreational water-related activities. Swimming, fishing, jet-skiing, paddle-boarding, kayaking, canoeing, or engaging in any water-related activities within the precautionary advisory area should be avoided.
- To view a map of the precautionary advisory area, please visit <http://bit.ly/35l0DuC>.

Operations at Virginia Young Park

- The contractor finished assembling the 36-inch bypass pipe which runs from Hector Park over the SE 9 Avenue bridge to a point on the 54-inch pipe located just north of SE 9 Street.
- During the overnight hours, crews installed the northern line stop mechanism on the tapping saddle.
- The northern end of the 36-inch bypass line has been connected to the 54-inch pipe.
- Heavy rains overnight postponed repair activities as crews began focusing on flood control.
- Additional pumps were brought in to maintain the pit around the break area and prevent spillage from flowing into the streets.
- Stormwater crews and vacuum trucks worked during the overnight hours to address street flooding from the heavy rain.
- Operations to remove standing water in the areas of Virginia Young Park and Hector Park will continue throughout the day today.
- Maintenance will be conducted on tidal valves, storm drains, and catch basins to ensure they are clear and operating properly.
- Cliff Berry, Inc. (CBI) will be on site conducting cleaning activities, pressure washing, and sludge removal in the areas around Virginia Young Park.
- Virginia Young Park remains closed while repair activities are taking place.
- Neighbors are reminded that the area in and around Virginia Young Park is an active construction zone.
- For the safety of everyone, access to the construction zone is limited to appropriate operational and management personnel.

Cleanup and Remediation of Ponce de Leon Drive/Hector Park Area

- Crews and vacuum trucks are on site working to remove standing water from last night's heavy rainfall on Ponce de Leon Drive and areas around Hector Park.
- Stormwater crews will monitor tidal valves, storm drains, and catch basins in the Hector Park area to ensure they are unobstructed and operating properly.
- CBI will conduct cleaning and pressure washing in the Ponce de Leon Drive and Hector Park areas.
- Hector Park remains closed to the public.
- The south side of Ponce de Leon Drive at SE 9 Avenue remains open.

Environmental Activities

- Pending weather conditions, a contractor is scheduled to mobilize equipment today for air quality testing in the Virginia Young Park and Hector Park areas.
- 14 aerators will continue to operate 24/7 to help improve water quality in the Tarpon River, New River, and Himmarshee Canal.
- Boats will continue to patrol the canal system in and around Rio Vista and in the Himmarshee Canal to conduct skimming and debris removal on the waterways.

Road Closures

- Roads in the immediate vicinity of Virginia Young Park are closed including SE 10 Street between SE 9 Avenue and Rio Vista Boulevard, as well as Rio Vista Boulevard between SE 9 Avenue and SE 9 Street.
- A portion of SE 9 Avenue in the vicinity of SE 9 Street is closed where crews are working on the 54-inch pipe.
- There is no access east of SE 9 Avenue at the intersections of SE 9 Street, SE 10 Street, South Rio Vista Boulevard, and the north side of Ponce de Leon Drive. In addition, once the bypass is activated the SE 9 Avenue bridge will be closed to traffic.
- The south side of Ponce de Leon Drive at SE 9 Avenue will remain accessible.

Safety Tips

- Neighbors in the affected area are reminded to avoid contact with any standing water.
- If contact is made, please remember to follow proper hygiene procedures. Wash your hands with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after contact with wastewater, especially before preparing or eating food.
- Be sure to keep all children and pets away from any area affected by the wastewater spill.
- Keep a container or spray bottle outside residential entryways with a 90/10 solution (90% water to 10% household bleach) to clean shoes and other items that may have come into contact with wastewater.

Precautionary Advisory for Water-Related Recreational Activities

- A precautionary advisory for recreational activities in local waterways remains in effect.
- The boundaries are Broward Boulevard to the north, Poinciana Drive to the east, SE 15 Street to the south, and SW 18 Avenue to the west. Water-related activities including swimming, fishing, jet-skiing, paddle-boarding, kayaking, and canoeing should be avoided within these boundaries.
- To view a map of the precautionary advisory for water-related recreational activities, please visit <http://bit.ly/35l0DuC>.

For More Information

Neighbors are encouraged to stay up to date by visiting the City's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov or following the City on social media at:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CityofFortLauderdale/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/FTLCityNews>

Nextdoor – <https://www.nextdoor.com>

Neighbors may also call the City's 24-hour Neighbor Call Center at 954-828-8000.